



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of the members of USA FARMERS, I write to express our appreciation to you and our strong support for the Agricultural Guestworker Act (AG Act). We believe this long-overdue legislation would make dramatic improvements to the labor situation on America's farms and we strongly encourage all members of the Committee to support your legislation and move it to the floor of the House.

USA FARMERS is the nation's largest non-profit organization that advocates solely for H-2A employers. Because our members participate in the H-2A program, we know all too well the numerous problems and pitfalls associated with the government's current outdated approach to guestworker programs. Although our members participate in the H-2A program, we do not do so because it is simple, or easy, or inexpensive, or because it makes sense, or because the agency that administers the program understands farming. H-2A is none of those things and as a result, very few farmers can figure out how to navigate the constant delays and mindless bureaucracy associated with the program.

We very much appreciate the common-sense approach of the AG Act and your design of the H-2C program. The structure and flexibility of the program reflects your deep understanding of how agriculture operates on the ground and the numerous uncertainties farmers face each day. The H-2C program is a welcome improvement that appropriately protects the interests of both workers and employers and avoids pointless bureaucratic hurdles that produce no meaningful benefits for program participants.

The modern application process and streamlined program will be much more responsive to the time-sensitive labor needs of farmers, while simultaneously continuing to ensure any available U.S. workers first have an opportunity to take these jobs. Your inclusion of all sectors of agriculture ensures that all farmers have an equal opportunity to access needed labor through H-2C. The wage methodology is transparent and predictable, enabling farmers to plan ahead and actually know in advance what their largest expenditure (labor cost) for the season will be. The flexibility of contract and at-will employment combined with meaningful litigation reforms corrects serious deficiencies that have plagued employers and workers for years. Finally, your

bill also addresses a difficult situation in a sensitive manner by providing an important way forward for the thousands of agricultural workers who currently lack work authorization.

In our estimation, the H-2C program would create a much more stable and efficient labor situation in American agriculture, enabling farmers to focus on providing our nation with the world's greatest and safest food supply. Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chalmers R. Carr III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "C" at the beginning and a "III" at the end.

Chalmers R. Carr III  
President